

TITLE 16. SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY BOARD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board is proposing to take the action described in the Informative Digest. No public hearing has been scheduled on the proposed action. However, any interested person or such person's duly authorized representative may request, no later than 15 days prior to the close of the written comment period, a public hearing pursuant to Section 11346.8. Written comments, including those sent by mail, facsimile, or e-mail to the addresses listed under the contact person in this Notice, must be received by the Board at its office not later than 5:00 p.m. on January 22, 2007. The Board, upon its own motion or at the instance of any interested party, may thereafter adopt the proposals substantially as described below or may modify such proposals if such modifications are sufficiently related to the original text. With the exception of technical or grammatical changes, the full text of any modified proposal will be available for 15 days prior to its adoption from the person designated in this Notice as contact person and will be mailed to those persons who submit written or oral testimony related to this proposal or who have requested notification of any changes to the proposal.

Authority and Reference: Pursuant to the authority vested by Business and Professions Code Sections 2531.95, and 2538.1 (a) and (b) and to implement, interpret or make specific Sections 2538, 2538.1(b), and 2538.3 of the Business and Professions Code, the Board is considering changes to Division 13.4 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations as follows:

INFORMATIVE DIGEST/POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

The Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board ("Board") is authorized by Business and Professions Code Section 2531.95 to adopt regulations necessary to implement the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Licensure Act. Effective January 1998, Article 7.5 was added to Chapter 5.3 of the Code authorizing the Board to establish regulations that set forth the standards and requirements for the registration of speech-language pathology assistants. Section 2538.3(a) of the Code establishes the speech-language pathology assistant academic and training requirements as graduation from a board-approved speech-language pathology assistant associate of arts degree program or equivalent course of study. The Section further defines the equivalent course of study and provides that successful completion of a board-approved bachelor's degree program in speech-language pathology or communication disorders shall be deemed equivalent.

The proposed amendments to Section 1399.170.11 will enable program directors of speech-language pathology or communication disorders bachelor's degree programs to verify the undergraduate clinical experience completed by bachelor's degree holders in order to qualify these individuals for SLPA registration. Further amendments to this section will create an avenue for bachelor's degree applicants to apply specific work experience, in lieu of the requisite clinical training, toward the SLPA registration requirements.

Section 1399.170.11. Deletes the requirement that a speech-language pathology assistant program director of a board-approved speech-language pathology assistant training program or his or her authorized designee must verify the clinical hours completed by a bachelor's degree holder in an undergraduate training program and instead authorizes the training program director of the undergraduate program to certify completion of the requisite seventy (70) clinical hours.

Amends the section to include the consideration of work experience as equivalent to the required seventy (70) hours of clinical training completed in a formal training institution for a bachelor's

degree holder, as defined in Section 2538.3 of the Business and Professions Code, who has completed one-year of full-time work experience performing the duties of a speech-language pathology assistant as enumerated in Section 2538.1 of the Business and Professions Code.

FISCAL IMPACT ESTIMATES

Fiscal Impact on Public Agencies Including Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Cost/Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None

Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies: None

Local Mandate: None

Cost to Any Local Agency or School District for Which Government Code Section 17561 Requires Reimbursement: None

Business Impact: The Board has made an initial determination that the proposed regulatory action would have no significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.

AND

The following studies/relevant data were relied upon in making the above determination: None

Impact on Jobs/New Businesses: The Board has determined that this regulatory proposal will not have a significant impact on the creation of jobs or new businesses or the elimination of jobs or existing businesses or the expansion of businesses in the State of California.

Cost Impact on Private Persons or Entities: The Board is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

Effect on Housing Costs: None

EFFECT ON SMALL BUSINESS

The Board has determined that the proposed regulatory action would not affect small businesses as it makes minor changes to the academic requirements for paraprofessionals to register in the state. The proposed changes do not place additional requirements on small business or on individuals eligible for employment by small business. Rather, the changes to the SLPA requirements will provide additional opportunities for bachelor's degree applicants to register as SLPAs.

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

The Board must determine that no reasonable alternative it considered to the regulation or that has otherwise been identified and brought to its attention would either be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposal described in this Notice.

Any interested person may present statements or arguments orally or in writing relevant to the above determinations at the above-mentioned hearing.

INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS AND INFORMATION

The Board has prepared an initial statement of the reasons for the proposed action and has available all the information upon which the proposal is based.

TEXT OF THE PROPOSAL

Copies of the exact language of the proposed regulations and of the initial statement of reasons, and all of the information upon which the proposal is based, may be obtained at the hearing or prior to the hearing upon request from the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board at 1422 Howe Avenue, Suite 3, Sacramento, CA 95825.

AVAILABILITY AND LOCATION OF THE FINAL STATEMENT OF REASONS AND RULEMAKING FILE

All information upon which the proposed regulations are based is contained in the rulemaking file which is available for public inspection by contacting the person named below.

You may obtain a copy of the final statement of reasons once it has been prepared, by making a written request to the contact person named below or by accessing the website listed below.

CONTACT PERSON

Any inquiries or comments concerning the proposed rulemaking action may be addressed to:

Name:	Kathi Burns, Board Analyst
Address:	1422 Howe Avenue, Suite 3 Sacramento, CA 95825
Telephone No.:	(916) 263-2666
Fax No.:	(916) 263-2668
E-Mail Address:	Kathi_Burns@dca.ca.gov

The backup contact person is:

Name:	Annemarie Del Mugnaio, Executive Officer
Address:	1422 Howe Avenue, Suite 3 Sacramento, CA 95825
Telephone No.:	(916) 263-2666
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E-Mail Address:	Annemarie_DelMugnaio@dca.ca.gov

Website Access: Materials regarding this proposal can be found at www.slpab.ca.gov.